Safe drinking water in villages

3176. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 5000 villages have no source of safe drinking water; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make arrangements therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) As per the Comprehensive Action Plan 1999 (CAP 99) and the subsequent coverage reported by State Governments/Union Territories, there are 4588 habitations in the country, as on 1.4.2005, that have not been covered with schemes to supply 10 litre or more of safe drinking water per capita per day. Drinking water is one of the components of Bharat Nirman plan, which, *inter-alia,* envisages coverage of all uncovered rural habitations by 2008-09.

Proposal for revival of sub-mission programme and projects

3177. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for revival of sub-mission programme and projects worth Rs. 685 crore to provide safe drinking water to 2,682 inhabitations;

(b) if so, the status of the above said proposal; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to clear the above said proposal of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) A proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh was received in August 2004 for tackling water quality problems in remaining 1,963 habitations in the state at a cost of Rs. 675.28 crore. The sub-mission projects are undertaken by the States for providing safe drinking water to the rural habitations facing water quality problems. With effect from 1/4/1998, the power to sanction projects under Sub-mission programme for tackling water quality problems had been delegated to the State Governments. Therefore, this proposal was returned to the State Government for taking necessary action.

(c) Does not arise. However, under Bharat Nirman programme, it has been decided, *inter-alia,* to provide safe drinking water in water quality affected rural habitations in the country over a period of four years (2005-06 to 2008-09). The State Governments, including Andhra Pradesh, have been requested to prepare Action Plans for the purpose and Concept Papers for bridging the funding gap with external funds under focused funding in the sub-mission programme.

Implementation of land reforms

†3178. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the identified land reforms in the Tenth Plan have been construed as important policy measure for poverty alleviation in the rural areas;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this regard in the Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if the progress is not satisfactory, what steps are being taken by Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Land and its management comes under exclusive jurisdiction of States. Ministry of Rural Development plays an advisory and coordinating role in the field of land reforms. Reports received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh indicate that 54204 acres of ceiling surplus land has been distributed to 46867 beneficiaries. 15748 acres of the ceiling surplus land has been distributed to 16041-SC beneficiaries and 20771 acres of the ceiling surplus land to 18297 ST beneficiaries. 1.41 lakh acres of bhoodan land and 0.79 lakh acres of Government Wastelands have been distributed to rural poor. 95.33 lakh acres of area has been consolidated in the State.

Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

3179. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent any instructions to States and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.